

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 156765

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: OVIP, JA (MIKI, PRIME MINISTER)

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER MIKI TO US

1. DEPUTY VICE MINISTER YOSHINO AND DEPUTY DIRGEN FUKADA PAID COURTESY CALLS ON ACTING SECRETARY AND HABIB JUNE 30; TO DISCUSS FORTHCOMING MIKI VISIT. RESPONDING TO YOSHINO'S QUESTION AS TO WHAT US EXPECTED FROM VISIT, HABIB NOTED ABSENCE OF ANY PROBLEMS IN BILATERAL ISSUES BETWEEN JAPAN AND US SUFFICIENT TO INVOLVE PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT. AT SAME TIME, FACT THAT THIS IS MIKI'S FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT AS PRIME MINISTER AND THAT HE COMES IN ADVANCE OF HISTORIC IMPERIAL VISIT MAKES MUTUAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BOTH USEFUL AND IMPORTANT. HABIB EXPRESSED INFORMAL OPINION THAT AGENDA MIGHT INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF ASIAN POLICIES IN POST-VIETNAM ERA, DISCUSSION OF CURRENT STATUS OF RELATIONS WITH PRC AND USSR, BRIEFING BY US ON PROGRESS OF SALT AND CSCE TALKS, AND MULTILATERAL WORLD ECONOMIC ISSUES(MTN, FOOD, RESOURCES, ENERGY) IN WHICH BOTH JAPAN AND US HAVE A HEAVY STAKE. HE ALSO SAID THAT EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS ON THE SITUATION IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA WOULD BE VALUABLE, ALTHOUGH THIS SHOULD NOT BE MADE PUBLIC IN ORDER TO AVOID OFFENDING KOREAN SENSIBILITIES.

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FINALLY, HE SAID THAT WE WOULD WELCOME HEARING FROM THE JAPANESE LEADERS THEIR VIEWS ON THE KIND OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ROLE JAPAN MIGHT CONTEMPLATE PLAYING IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA.

2. YOSHINO EXPRESSED GRATITUDE AND SAID THAT THEY HAD BEEN THINKING ALONG SIMILAR LINES. HE THEN SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER MIKI HAD ASKED HIM TO ACCOMPANY THE MISSION AND HAD DISCUSSED IT WITH HIM. HE WISHED TO EMPHASIZE THAT MIKI DIFFERED FROM SOME OF HIS PREDECESSORS BOTH WITH REGARD TO HIS FIELD OF MAJOR INTEREST AND THE KIND OF IMAGE HE CONVEYED. MIKI WOULD HOPE, YOSHINO SAID, NOT TO PAY MAJOR ATTENTION TO SECURITY MATTERS DURING THESE MEETINGS AND TO CONCENTRATE INSTEAD ON "PEACEFUL ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION." MIKI DID NOT MEAN TO IMPLY ANY BACKING AWAY FROM MST, BUT SIMPLY "TAKING IT FOR GRANTED" AS CORNERSTONE OF RELATIONSHIP AND SHIFTING EMPHASIS TO MUTUAL COOPERATION ASPECT. HABIB AGREED THAT THERE SEEM TO BE NO SERIOUS BILATERAL SECURITY PROBLEMS AT THIS TIME.

3. IN SUBSEQUENT BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH ACTING SECRETARY, YOSHINO COVERED MUCH OF SAME GROUND. WHEN ACTING SECRETARY NOTED THAT HE HAD SEEN A GREAT DEAL MORE FORTHRIGHT DISCUSSION OF SECURITY ISSUES BY GOJ SPOKESMEN IN DIET, YOSHINO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS WAS TRUE, AND SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THAT END OF WAR IN VIETNAM HAD SERVED PURPOSE OF MAKING JAPANESE PUBLIC MORE AWARE OF NEED FOR SECURITY GUARANTEES. PRESS WAS LESS HOSTILE THAN BEFORE. HE ADDED THAT MAJOR REASON FOR GOJ DECISION NOT TO PRESS FOR NPT RATIFICATION DURING CURRENT DIET SESSION WAS FACT THAT OPPOSITION PARTIES (AND SOME IN LDP AS WELL) WERE ATTACHING UNACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS AS PRICE FOR COOPERATION. YOSHINO HOPED THAT BY TIME TREATY IS BROUGHT UP AGAIN FOR CONSIDERATION IN FALL, PUBLIC OPINION WILL HAVE MATURED TO POINT WHERE THESE CONDITIONS WILL NOT BE NECESSARY. INGERSOLL

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